

Legal Check-up Seminar

2002 Supplement to Missouri Participant's Workbook*

Attention Educators! This is a sample supplement to the Legal Checkup workbook that was created by Joyce Cavanagh from Missouri Extension. Its purpose is to provide seminar participants with updated information about SSI guidelines, monthly premiums for Medicare and any other state-specific details. Legal Checkup workbooks are updated by the AARP Legal Services Network every 3 years, so please feel free to create your own supplement like this one as you feel is necessary. The LSN *does not* need to review your supplement, but please include a disclaimer using language that is similar to the text printed here on page one. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Margesson at the AARP Legal Services Network - jmargesson@aarp.org or (800) 633-4496 x 115.

As you work through your **Legal Checkup Participant's Workbook**, please refer to the updated information provided in this supplement.

Page 11

11. Do you have any plans to work in the future? Yes_____ No_____

If you are not *presently* working but plan to in the future, income from a job may affect your eligibility for certain benefits that are based on income or employment status. For example, if you are under the age of full-retirement and are receiving Social Security, you are allowed to earn \$11,280 in 2002 without affecting your Social Security retirement benefits. Your benefits will be reduced \$1 for every \$2 in earnings above the limit. If you will reach full-retirement age in 2002 and have been collecting Social Security, you are allowed to earn \$2500 a month (\$30,000 for the year). Social Security benefits will be reduced \$1 for every \$3 you are over the limit, until the month you reach full-retirement age. Employment will not affect your Social Security benefits once you have full-retirement age.

Page 17

* This supplement was written by Dr. Joyce Cavanagh and Dr. Carole Bozworth, University of Missouri Outreach and Extension. AARP LSN is not responsible for the information provided in this supplement. Contact information: Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, 162 Stanley Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO cavanaghj@missouri.edu, 574-882-6289.

2002 income guidelines for **Supplemental Security Income** are now \$545/month for an individual and \$817/month for a couple. Countable resource amounts have not changed.

Page 18

2002 poverty guidelines for determining food stamp eligibility are \$696/month for one person; \$938/month for a couple. Resource limits have not changed.

Page 20-21

Veterans Benefits

Income for you or your spouse must be less than \$9556/year if living alone and \$12,516/year if living with spouse or child (add \$1630/year for each additional dependent) (2002 figures).

Income for an unmarried surviving spouse must be less than \$6407/year (2002 figure).

Page 23

Medicare

Monthly premiums for Medicare are \$319/month (Part A) and \$54/month (Part B) (2002 figures).

Page 24

QMB income eligibility amounts are no more than \$739/month for an individual and \$995/month for a couple in 2002. Resource limits have not changed.

Page 25

SLIB income eligibility amounts are no more than \$836/month for an individual, and \$1194 for a couple in 2002. Resource limits have not changed.

Hospital Free Care Obligations

The federal income limitation guidelines for free care are \$8860/year for an individual; and \$11,940/year for a couple (2002 figures).

Page 47

Only estates larger than \$1,000,000 (2002 figure) pay federal estate taxes. This figure rises gradually until estate tax is eliminated in 2010. Unless the law is repealed or changed, the estate law returns to 1999 levels in 2011.

Taxes

Individuals and couples with or without children may qualify for the **EITC**. Wage earners between the ages of 24 and 65 without children, earning less than \$10,710 will qualify for a credit of \$364. There are two credits available to families with children. The EITC for a family with one child reached a maximum credit of \$2428 in tax year 2001. The EITC for families with two or more children reached a maximum credit of \$4008 in tax year 2001.